

STATEWIDE RESPONSE TO HOMELESSNESS IN HAWAII

The undersigned organizations are proud to join in support of sustained annual commitments by the Legislature toward truly affordable housing and core homelessness services.

Almost five decades ago, the state of Hawaii declared a “housing crisis” that has continued to worsen as housing costs outpace wage increases. More families are forced to choose between having a place to live and having life’s basic necessities, including food. Groups such as Partners in Care (PIC), Bridging the Gap (BTG), and the Hawaii Interagency Council on Homelessness (HICH) are working together to turn around this housing and homelessness crisis, but our efforts alone cannot solve this problem.

Last session, the Hawaii Legislature made a bold and unprecedented commitment of \$200 million for truly affordable housing and \$50 million for resources to address homelessness – nearly seven times the amounts committed from the year before. This level of investment is necessary to make significant progress in ending this crisis.

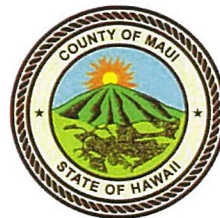
With that in mind, we the undersigned support:

- Sustained annual commitments for truly affordable housing, including targeted housing for the chronically homeless;
- Sustained annual commitments for core homelessness services that work (such as Housing First) to ensure their long-term viability and success;
- Funding to test new programs that fill gaps in existing services, such as a program to help kupuna facing eviction;
- Changes to mental health laws, ensuring that people incapacitated by mental illness and suffering on the streets are connected with the help they need.

Programs to address affordable housing and homelessness need sufficient, long-term funding to truly make a difference. Too many Hawaii residents are teetering on the brink of homelessness because there is not enough affordable housing, and core homelessness programs such as Housing First have proved their value and effectiveness. We urge the Legislature to explore options to make such sustained funding possible for housing and homelessness.



PARTNERS IN CARE
OAHU'S CONTINUUM OF CARE



SUPPORTERS OF STATEWIDE RESPONSE TO HOMELESSNESS IN HAWAII

NAME	TITLE	ORGANIZATION
<u>Connie Mitchell</u>	<u>Executive Director</u> <u>Executive Chair</u>	<u>Institute for Human Services (IHS)</u> <u>Partners in Care</u>
<u>Brandee Menino</u>	<u>Executive Director</u> <u>Chair</u>	<u>Hope Services Hawaii</u> <u>Bridging the Gap</u>
<u>Scott Morishige</u>	<u>Chair</u>	<u>Hawaii Interagency Council on</u> <u>Homelessness (HICH)</u>
<u>Marc Alexander</u>	<u>Executive Director</u>	<u>City & County Office of Housing</u>
<u>Sharon Hirota</u>	<u>Hawaii County Homeless</u> <u>Coordinator</u>	<u>County of Hawaii</u>
<u>Susan Kim</u>	<u>Governor's Representative</u>	<u>Governor's Office, West Hawaii</u>
<u>David Nakama</u>	<u>Maui County Homeless</u> <u>Program Coordinator</u>	<u>County of Maui</u>
<u>Sharon Graham</u>	<u>Homeless Coordinator</u>	<u>County of Kauai</u>
<u>Bruce Anderson</u>	<u>Director</u>	<u>Hawaii State Department of Health</u>
<u>Sherry Menor-McNamara</u>	<u>President and CEO</u>	<u>Chamber of Commerce of Hawaii</u>
<u>Norm Baker</u>	<u>Chief Operating Officer</u>	<u>Aloha United Way</u>
<u>Tina Andrade</u>	<u>V.P. - Mission Integration</u>	<u>Catholic Charities Hawaii</u>
<u>Phil Acosta</u>	<u>Executive Director</u>	<u>ALEA Bridge</u>
<u>Mais. Jeff and Eloisa Martin</u>	<u>Divisional Leaders</u>	<u>The Salvation Army</u> <u>Hawaiian & Pacific Islands</u>
<u>Heather Lusk</u>	<u>Executive Director</u> <u>Co-Director</u>	<u>Hawaii Health & Harm</u> <u>Reduction Center</u> <u>Hep Free Hawaii</u>
<u>Jon Berliner</u>	<u>Executive Director</u>	<u>Gregory House Programs</u>
<u>Samantha Church</u>	<u>Executive Director</u>	<u>Family Promise of Hawaii</u>
<u>Gavin Thornton</u>	<u>Executive Director</u>	<u>Hawaii Appleseed Center</u>
<u>Judith Clark</u>	<u>Executive Director</u>	<u>Hawaii Youth Services Network</u>

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NAME	TITLE	ORGANIZATION
<u>Holly Holowach</u>	<u>Director</u>	<u>Holomua Na Ohana/Weinberg Village Waimanalo</u>
<u>Marya Grambs</u>	<u>Board Member</u>	<u>Drug Policy Forum of Hawaii</u>
<u>Kim Cook</u>	<u>Executive Director</u>	<u>U.S.VETS – Barbers Point</u>
<u>Jague Kelley-Uyeoka</u>	<u>Deputy CEO</u>	<u>Hale Kipa Inc.</u>
<u>Mary Scott-Lau</u>	<u>Founder/Executive Director</u>	<u>Women in Need</u>
<u>Linda Ahue</u>	<u>Executive Director</u>	<u>Steadfast Housing Development</u>
<u>Bryan L. Talisayan</u>	<u>Executive Director</u>	<u>PHOCUSED</u>
<u>Craig Shoji</u>	<u>Co-Founder</u>	<u>Revive + Refresh</u>
<u>Robert Piper</u>	<u>Executive Director</u>	<u>Honolulu Community Action Program Inc. (HCAP)</u>
<u>Stephanie Kendrick</u>	<u>Public Policy Advocate</u>	<u>Hawaiian Humane Society</u>
<u>Terry Brooks</u>	<u>President, Principal Broker</u>	<u>Housing Solutions Inc.</u>
<u>Phyllis Dendle</u>	<u>Chief Executive Officer</u>	<u>Waikiki Health</u>
<u>Carla Houser</u>	<u>Executive Director</u>	<u>RYSE</u>
<u>Tom McDonald</u>	<u>Executive Director</u>	<u>Alternative Structures International</u>
<u>Dodie Rivera</u>	<u>Case Management Supervisor</u>	<u>Waianae Coast Comprehensive Health Center</u>
<u>Paula Arcena</u>	<u>Executive Vice President – External Affairs</u>	<u>AlohaCare</u>
<u>Alan Johnson</u>	<u>President and CEO</u>	<u>Hina Mauka</u>
<u>Carolina Jesus</u>	<u>Executive Director</u>	<u>Shelter of Wisdom</u>
<u>Susan Furuta</u>	<u>VP and COO</u>	<u>Helping Hands Hawaii</u>
<u>Evelyn Aczon Hao</u>	<u>President</u>	<u>Faith Action</u>
<u>Jean Lilley</u>	<u>Executive Director</u>	<u>Hawaii Habitat for Humanity Association</u>

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NAME	TITLE	ORGANIZATION
<u>Jill Omori</u>	<u>Director</u>	<u>Hawaii H.O.M.E. Project</u>
<u>Roy Katsuda</u>	<u>Executive Director Emeritus</u>	<u>Hale Mahaolu</u>
<u>Scotty Reis-Moniz</u>	<u></u>	<u>Kapili Like Hawai'i & Waimanalo Youth Build</u>
<u>Brent Kakesako</u>	<u>Executive Director</u>	<u>Hawaii Alliance for Community- Based Economic Development (HACBED)</u>
<u>Steve Lohse</u>	<u>Chair</u>	<u>Chinatown Gateway Plaza Tenant Association (CGPTA)</u>
<u>Michael Robinson</u>	<u>Vice President, Government Relations & Community Affairs</u>	<u>Hawai'i Pacific Health</u>
<u>Jeff Gilbreath</u>	<u>Executive Director</u>	<u>Hawaiian Community Assets</u>
<u>Carl Bergquist</u>	<u>Director</u>	<u>Drug Policy Forum of Hawaii</u>
<u>Eva Andrade</u>	<u>Director</u>	<u>Hawaii Catholic Conference</u>
<u>Lynette L. Mau</u>	<u></u>	<u>Mental Health Task Force (MHTF)</u>
<u>Jennifer Ito</u>	<u>Physician</u>	<u>Jennifer Ito M.D. LLC</u>
<u>Kat Brady</u>	<u>Coordinator</u>	<u>Community Alliance on Prisons</u>
<u>Trisha Kaiimura</u>	<u>Executive Director</u>	<u>Mental Health America of Hawaii</u>
<u>Courtney Mrowczynski</u>	<u>Member</u>	<u>Hawaii Justice Coalition</u>
<u>Ryan Kusumoto</u>	<u>President and CEO</u>	<u>Parents and Children Together (PACT)</u>
<u>Laurie Tochiki</u>	<u>President and CEO</u>	<u>EPIC 'Ohana Inc.</u>
<u>Andy Mounthongdy</u>	<u>Executive Director</u>	<u>Hawaii Homeless Healthcare Hui</u>
<u>Elizabeth Valentin</u>	<u>Executive Director</u>	<u>Project Vision Hawai'i</u>

SUPPORTERS OF STATEWIDE RESPONSE TO HOMELESSNESS IN HAWAII

NAME	TITLE	ORGANIZATION
<u>Kim Golis-Robello</u>	<u>Family & Economic Development Center Program Coordinator</u>	<u>Parents and Children Together (PACT)</u>
<u>Mike Goodman</u>	<u>Executive Director</u>	<u>Hawaii Kai Homeless Task Force</u>
<u>Monique Yamashita</u>	<u>Chief Executive Officer</u>	<u>Ka Hale A Ke Ola Homeless Resource Centers Inc.</u>
<u>Nate Hix</u>	<u>Director</u>	<u>Living Wage Hawaii</u>
<u>Rick Stack</u>	<u>Board Chair</u>	<u>Catholic Charities Housing Development Corp.</u>
<u>Kevin Carney</u>	<u>Vice President, Hawaii</u>	<u>EAH Housing</u>
<u>John Henry Felix</u>	<u>Chair</u>	<u>Homeless Veterans Task Force</u>
<u>Joyce Kawakami</u>	<u>Chief Executive Officer</u>	<u>Feed My Sheep Inc.</u>
<u>Karen Tan</u>	<u>President and CEO</u>	<u>Child and Family Service</u>
<u>Ruth Davis</u>		<u>North Shore Mental Health</u>
<u>The Rev. Amy Wake</u>	<u>Senior Pastor</u>	<u>Trinity United Methodist Church</u>
<u>The Rev. David Gierlach</u>	<u>Rector</u>	<u>St. Elizabeth's Episcopal Church</u>
<u>The Rev. Piula Alailima</u>	<u>Pastor</u>	<u>Wesley United Methodist Church</u>
<u>Noriko Namiki</u>	<u>Chief Executive Officer</u>	<u>YWCA</u>
<u>The Rev. Liz Leavitt</u>	<u>Pastor</u>	<u>Christ Church Uniting Disciples and Presbyterians</u>
<u>Lisa Maruyama</u>	<u>President and CEO</u>	<u>Hawaii Alliance of Nonprofit Organizations</u>
<u>The Rev. David Baumgart Turner</u>	<u>Pastor</u>	<u>Church of the Crossroads</u>
<u>Darlene Rodrigues</u>	<u>Chair, Church and Society</u>	<u>Harris United Methodist Church</u>
<u>MaBel Ferreiro-Fujiuchi</u>	<u>Chief Executive Officer</u>	<u>Kauai Economic Opportunity Inc.</u>
<u>Mike Durant</u>	<u>State President</u>	<u>NAMI Hawai'i</u>

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NAME	TITLE	ORGANIZATION
<u>Maude Cumming</u>	<u>Executive Director</u>	<u>Family Life Center Inc.</u>
<u>Jeff Stone</u>	<u>CEO and President</u>	<u>The Resort Group</u>
<u>Ken Kawamoto</u>	<u>President</u>	<u>Jayken Inc.</u>
<u>Thelma Akita-Kealoha</u>	<u>Maui Community Director</u>	<u>Catholic Charities Hawaii</u>
<u>Toni Symons</u>	<u>Program Director for Social Services</u>	<u>Hawaii Affordable Properties at Kahua Hale O Ulu Wini</u>
<u>Terri Hollowell</u>	<u>Director of Programming</u>	<u>Hawaii Island HIV/AIDS Foundation, Kona Chapter</u>
<u>Rita Palma</u>	<u>Principal Officer</u>	<u>Hawaii Island Home for Recovery Inc. (HIHR)</u>
<u>Alysa Lavoie</u>	<u>Case Manager</u>	<u>West Hawaii Community Health Center</u>
<u>Heidi Teraoka</u>		<u>Neighborhood Place of Kona</u>
<u>David Deges</u>		<u>Neighbor Island Housing Program</u>
<u>Kim Krell</u>	<u>Quality Assurance Manager</u>	<u>Big Island Substance Abuse Council</u>
<u>Renae Mathson</u>	<u>Director of Operations</u>	<u>Project Vision Hawaii</u>
<u>Eric Mathson</u>	<u>Mobile Shower Unit Manager</u>	<u>Project Vision Hawaii</u>
<u>LaVerne Tolmie</u>	<u>Faith-Based Representative</u>	<u>Interfaith Communities in Action (ICIA)</u>
<u>Paul Normann</u>	<u>Executive Director</u>	<u>Neighborhood Place of Puna</u>
<u>Shirley David</u>	<u>Hawaii Island Advisory Board Chair</u>	<u>Catholic Charities Hawaii</u>
<u>Christina Basham</u>	<u>Program Director</u>	<u>Child & Family Service</u>
<u>Erika Empey</u>		<u>Child & Family Service</u>
<u>Patrick Hurney</u>	<u>Executive Director</u>	<u>Habitat for Humanity, Hawaii Island</u>

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NAME	TITLE	ORGANIZATION
<u>Thomas Mead</u>	<u>Financial Coordinator</u>	<u>Hawaii Island HIV/AIDS Foundation</u>
<u>Kathy Peters</u>	<u></u>	<u>Kathleen Peters, PhD</u>
<u>Cynthia M. Taylor</u>	<u>Pastoral Associate</u>	<u>St. Michael the Archangel Church</u>
<u>Karen Bohner</u>	<u></u>	<u>Kona Alano Club</u>
<u>Ruth Ellen Billion</u>	<u></u>	<u>Kona Alano Club</u>
<u>Barbara Kossow</u>	<u>Deputy Managing Director</u>	<u>Hawaii County Mayor's Office</u>
<u>Jerrad Trotter</u>	<u>Owner/Operator</u>	<u>Strangers We Know</u>
<u>Christian Lamb</u>	<u></u>	<u>Veterans Affairs</u>
<u>Jyness Jones</u>	<u></u>	<u>The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints</u>
<u>Angie Onaka</u>	<u></u>	<u>DOH - WHAPS</u>
<u>Randolph Hack</u>	<u>Retired</u>	<u></u>
<u>Daniel Sibonga</u>	<u></u>	<u>Mental Health Hawaii</u>
<u>Erica Rainhart</u>	<u></u>	<u>Erica Rainhart</u>

ISLAND VOICES

Major investment needed for housing

By Connie Mitchell
and Brandee Menino

A place to call home. A place from which family and community can grow and thrive. For many Hawaii households, a decent, affordable place to live is out of reach. The strength and health of Hawaii's people and communities depend on all of us coming together to turn around a problem that's been growing for decades.

In 1970, the state of Hawaii declared a "housing crisis" here. Year after year it's gotten worse. Increases in housing costs have outpaced increases in wages. More and more families are unable to afford housing and still have enough left for food and basic necessities.

Turning around a housing and homelessness crisis that's been growing for 50 years will be difficult, but not impossible. It will require coming together around a shared vision, taking bold action, and using data-driven approaches to efficiently use resources. It will take persistence, commitment and time.

Years ago, a family facing homelessness would arrive at service provider's door and receive whatever the provider had to offer whether or not it was the best suited service for the situation. Or the family might be sent away with only a list of other providers and a prayer that one of them could help.

Today, regardless of which provider's door they knock on, families are assessed and matched with the services and providers that can best address their particular situation. This more-connected, efficient and effective system is a result of the work of Partners in Care (PIC), Bridging the Gap (BTG) and the Hawaii Inter-agency Council on Homelessness (HICH) — groups that consists of nearly 100 homelessness stakehold-



Connie Mitchell, left, chairs Partners in Care (Oahu); Brandee Menino chairs Bridging the Gap (Hawaii island, Maui and Kauai).

ers including service providers; health care organizations; federal, state, and county government leaders; and business leaders.

Efficiency is critical, but even the most efficient system cannot address a problem of this magnitude without sufficient resources. Last year, legislators made a bold and unprecedented commitment of \$200 million for truly affordable housing and \$50 million for resources to address homelessness — nearly seven times the amounts committed from the year before.

To turn around a problem that's been growing for 50 years, this level of investment needs to become the

new normal. Recognizing this, PIC and BTG have adopted a comprehensive proposal to address homelessness, also supported by HICH:

>> Sustained annual commitments for truly affordable housing, including targeted housing for the chronic homelessness. We estimate, for example, that annual commitments of \$200 million, including \$75 million toward chronic homelessness, would save the state more than \$2 billion over 10 years, primarily due to reduced medical and related emergency services costs.

>> Sustained annual commitments for core homelessness services that work — such as Housing First — but which have previously been funded on a year-to-year basis, hindering the long-term planning necessary to efficiently run programs; historically stable funding for other core services such as temporary housing needs to remain in place.

>> Funding to test new programs that would fill gaps in existing services, such as a program for kupuna facing eviction because their fixed incomes haven't increased with rapidly rising rents.

>> Changes to mental health laws to ensure that people incapacitated by mental illness and suffering on the streets are connected with the help they need.

Hawaii's housing and homelessness problem has grown to the point that it threatens not only those living in homelessness or teetering on its brink; it affects us all. By coming together around a shared vision and by seeking out the necessary resources, we are gaining ground on addressing homelessness.

We hope more of our community will join us — share your knowledge, skills and resources — in refining the vision and improving our systems so our communities have a stable foundation on which to build and thrive.

